

1948

REPORT OF THE MONTREAL YMCA CAMP PERROT FOR BOYS AND GIRLS

To the:

Camp Board of Management.

INTRODUCTION

Gentlemen:

The fifth season for the YMCA Camp on Ile Perrot may be termed the "Building Year" and the complete vindication of the early committee who set out to find a beautiful camping site, easy of access to the city, where the youth of Montreal could go at reasonable cost for a camping experience.

The increasing popularity of this island for summer cottages, and indeed its steady growth for many as year-round residence, attest the far-sighted view of the pioneer group in securing the present location for development. Land values in the camp area have trebled in the last few years and the erection of the present buildings have set the camp property on a permanent basis and as yet unestimated value.

Through the years to come, the ever-active and progressive Camp Committee have charted many plans and activities that are not limited to one season or group, but entail a vision of increasing usefulness for the property and facilities available.

Camps and camping experience require no justification to this committee but we would like to quote Prof. Marroney of Columbia University who said, "Every boy and girl should have a camping experience for like public schools, they are not a luxury, but an absolute essential."

It is widely believed that there is no element of the program of the YMCA which accomplishes more than the summer camp for boys. From the results there can be little doubt. Campers make friends they would not otherwise have made. They are taught camping skills, swimming, canoeing, baseball, volleyball and washing dishes, etc. Men now in the mature life look back upon their period in Boys' Camp as a time when life was outstandingly wholesome and happy, and not a few have found their way into YMCA work and other forms of definite Christian service primarily as a result of contacts at camp and with camp leaders.

*Barn
ice house removed*

NEW BUILDINGS

The new Dining Hall erected at Camp during the 1948 season is an ideal one in every way.

Location: pleasant and central; Size: suitable to serve an expanding camp up to 160 campers and staff, or for special day or evening groups up to 250 people; Equipment: sturdy, practical, adjustable for many types of program, movie shows, conference sessions, dances, or small parties, etc; Facilities: unlimited, could be used for year-round activities, Fall and Spring conferences, the summer camping period and small beginner ski parties in the winter.

To-date the buildings have been of invaluable service, not only during the summer, but for many clubs and groups that have visited the site since the close of the formal boys and girls camp.

The local contractor, Mr. E. Leduc, fulfilled everyone of the obligations in his contract, and in many other respects did additional work, beyond his job, at no extra cost, to make the Dining Hall and Hospital two of the finest such units in any camp in Canada. During the course of construction, with the approval of the Committee, the original plans were slightly extended to have the fire-place stone-work continued to the roof. This addition has given the Dining Hall a beautiful harmonizing centre-piece that has become a practical utilized "Hearth" for the entire camp.

THE KITCHEN

Has been designed on a functional basis, to give quick, efficient service for the preparation, dispensing and servicing of food and the sanitary clean-up and disposal of provisions. The equipment includes all sorts of modern conveniences, designed to speed the production of wholesome meals in a cheerful atmosphere. An 80 gallon jack-heater and tank to supply hot water, an automatic electrically controlled refrigeration system and cooler room.

- Adjacent to the kitchen there is a specially drilled well, with an automatically electric controlled pump and system supplying water up to a quantity of 40 gallons a minute.
- An automatic bread and meat cutter machine, a butter cutter and all manner of tools, utensils, dishes and pans necessary in an up-to-date kitchen.

The contractor and his employees were kept busy for most of the camping season, making adjustments, doing detail work and on supplementary projects in connection with the buildings for most of the camping season. However, they did not interfere with the on-going program. On one occasion, I was concerned in case there would not be sufficient benches to accommodate the boys and guests for the official opening.

The inaugural ceremony took place on Tuesday, June 29th. with Col. Gerald W. Birks officiating and a group of distinguished guests present.

THE HOSPITAL

The John W. Ross Memorial Hospital is indeed one of the most complete units of its type in any camp. The location is in a quiet area of the camp grounds, yet giving an overall view of the camp setting and lake. The structure must be seen to be appreciated. Inside, every convenience for the ease and welfare of the campers is present. The easing of pain and the quick recovery of their health have been the primary consideration in equipping this unit. The building is partitioned and for this review, may be classified in these sections:- (1) The surgery or first aid room, where slight cases are treated, examinations and diagnosis are made and office records kept. (2) The nurse's bed-sitting room and private quarters. (3) The four bed hospital ward. (4) The outside porch convalescent wing. Throughout the building the equipment, apparatus, supplies, furniture and furnishings are the best. There is adequate cupboard space throughout, a sink, running water, self-contained toilet facilities, specially designed "picture windows" and awnings, the building is especially insulated, supplied with electric power through many convenient outlets. It is decorated both inside and out in harmonizing and pleasing colours.

A formal dedication service was held on Sunday afternoon, August 8th. The Rev. Leonard Griffiths officiating. Before the unveiling of the plaque, Mr. J.W. Beaton spoke of the life and service of the late Dr. John W. Ross. Mr. John F. Lewis, Chairman of the Camp Committee, presided. Following the ceremony, afternoon tea was served to honoured guests, visitors and campers.

The Montreal YMCA is deeply indebted to Mr. J. Ernest Millen and his family for his very generous bequest.

BARN

The Foremen's Club of Montreal, with the leadership of Mr. N. Millington, have taken over the old Barn as their service project. They came out several Saturday afternoons and have laid a new floor, installed electric lights, and will in the future, further carry on with a planned transformation of the Barn into a Recreational Hall, including a stage and facilities for Craft work. This group have already expended much effort, time and money on this project. Eventually, the old barn will be made into a fine spot for rainy day and special programs.

NEW EQUIPMENT

Truck: The old camp 1929 Ford Station-wagon was sold this year and the money so raised, plus an additional amount was used to purchase the present 1935 ton and a half truck. We made great use of this vehicle, which was an essential part of the camp equipment. It was due to our having such a truck available that we were able to buy much of our food locally at low cost. We made extensive use of the truck to bring urgent and essential supplies.

However, the truck was not all it appeared to be, and at mid-season it was found necessary to replace the motor with a new one and to buy two new tires. With some more adjustments soon, necessary on the truck, it will soon prove itself even more valuable in the years to come.

Raft: It was necessary in the interest of safety, that this year a complete new raft be built. Mr. E. Leduc did this job for us and we now have a solid and substantial six-drum raft anchored off the beach. It adds much to the waterfront activity.

LEADERSHIP
AND STAFF

I am indebted to the following counsellors and staff who made it possible for the campers to enjoy this year's activities. They all contributed so much to the on-going program and activities of camp life. I should like to thank each and everyone, and in particular, Mrs. I. Bogle, our efficient Camp Chef.

COUNSELLORS

Junior Section

Gord Roberts
Nick Assley
Doug Wilson
John Nourse
Doug Sellar
Ronnie Law
David Niles

Senior Section

John Smith
Ray Bowman
Fred Russell
Herbert Braithwaite
Charles Gaitens
Fred Collins

SECTION DIRECTORS

George Ward

Lloyd Bourdon

KITCHEN & DINING HALL STAFF

Mrs. I. Bogle, - Chef. Bill Rae - Albie Gaitens

BUSINESS MANAGER

Clayton Cameron

WATERFRONT AND CANOE TRIP DIRECTOR

Pete Sykes

HOSPITAL

Miss Marie Comeau, R.N.
Dr. Kelso
Dr. Loughheed

PROGRAM & CRAFT DIRECTORS

Phil Dunn
Ernest Robinson

A special word should be said also at this time, to the many old reliable friends who contributed so much to the camp whenever they had an opportunity to drop in, on a weekend or a special occasion: Members of the Board of Management, Mr. H.C. Cross, The architect, Mr. E. Wiggs, Mr. L. Clarke - Building superintendent, Mr. Herb Patterson, AL. Twintarney, Jerry Wright and Russell Bell.

LEADERSHIP
TRAINING

We were fortunate again this year in securing the services of so many counsellors who had been with us in the 1947 season. Over 50% of last year's leaders returned to camp to make the nucleus around which the new corps formed.

Individually they were interviewed concerning this year's aims and objectives. An outline of their duties, responsibilities and privileges was also given. The program men were supplied with books, pamphlets and papers dealing with their particular phase of the camp organization very early in the year. Several social gatherings were held when camp procedure was explained and camp methods were developed.

Well before camp, every counsellor and staff member was given a specially prepared twelve page "Camp Perrot Counsellors Training Course" booklet - a booklet that was a digest of many books, articles and the experience of the Camp Director, having particular reference to the problems that would be met within Perrot.

On the weekend of June 25th. - 27th. all the Boy and Girl counsellors met together at the camp for a combined, on the spot, Training Course. During the camp, sessions were held with the counsellors and constant contact was maintained with the members of the staff and leaders to help them seek a solution to the many problems that occur in any camp organization.

STATISTICAL
REPORT

Use of the Camp property was not confined to the formal camping dates. A great many organizations in the Montreal YMCA, and others, made extensive use of the facilities before the official opening, during the regular camping season and after the closing of the girls period.

Foremen's Club of Montreal (5 visits)	55
Central "Y" Saturday Night Club (5 visits)	225
Central "Y" Young People's Conference	22
Westmount - Young Adults	30
Lachine Protestant Churches picnic	150
Church of the Messiah picnic	125
Olympic Swimming Team	9
Point St. Charles "Y" Conference	35
Westmount "Y" Conference	15
Hi-Y Clubs of Montreal Conference	25
Lachine City Camp boys and girls picnic	70
Rosemount City Camp boys and girls picnic	60
Rotary Club members visit	15
Mr. "X" Entertainment Party	12
Kingsmen's Club of Lachine	15
North Branch "Y" Young Men's Committee	14
Point St. Charles "Y" Barn Dance	35
Phalanx Club of Central "Y"	8
	<hr/> 920

<u>Overnight Boys Hike Groups</u>	
Central "Y" Boys (3 visits)	22
Westmount "Y" Boys (4 visits)	30
Southwestern "Y" Boys (5 visits)	36
Point St. Charles "Y" Boys (2 visits)	12
Kanawana Canoe Parties (2 visits)	20
	<hr/> 1040

STATISTICAL
REPORT

<u>Branch</u>	<u>1948</u>	<u>Boys</u>	<u>Girls</u>	<u>Total</u>
Southwestern		26	51	87
N.D.G.		18	10	28
Eastern Communities		15	4	19
North		12	2	14
Central		34		34
Lachine		75	58	133
Westmount		15	4	19
Pointe St. Charles		27	4	31
Camp office		132	43	175
International		<u>4</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>6</u>
		<u>358</u>	<u>178</u>	<u>546</u>

(The 1948 camp was open for a period of eight weeks, whereas in 1947 it was a nine week period. In 1948 the girls had only a two week period.)

	<u>1948</u>	<u>1947</u>
Total number of different Boys that attended camp	162	185
Total number of different Girls that attended camp	<u>89</u>	<u>75</u>
	<u>251</u>	<u>260</u>

Number of boys passing Swim Tests -	<u>96</u>
Number of girls passing Swim Tests -	<u>75</u>
Number of boys going on one day canoe trips -	<u>90</u>
Number of boys going on overnight canoe trips -	<u>63</u>
Number of Parents and friends visiting camp on Sundays	800

PROGRAM

To give a detailed account of the varied program carried on this summer would be an exhaustive record. However, I would like to summarize the general weekly program and give the highlights of the special programs conducted.

Waterfront: Swimming of course, was the major program feature of camp, boating and canoe trips came next on the list of campers interest and participation. The very fine sandy beach that was flooded after last

Spring's exceptionally high water, again appeared on our waterfront property, thus restoring one of the camp's finest assets.

The counsellors and campers in the early part of the season made steady progress in clearing the waterfront area, erecting wharfs, and anchoring log booms around the swimming area.

General Program: With camp periods opening on Mondays instead of Wednesdays, we were able to have a complete round of activities without a mid-week change over. Morning periods were usually devoted to Craft activities and camp games. The after dinner time to hikes, projects, nature study groups, etc. The early evening hours to baseball, team games, sports and of course the almost nightly camp fires. Special programs included; - Saturday, an all day hike time, the boys cooking their own dinner on selected sites around the island. Olympic Day, Indian Day, Campers Day, Masquerades, Christmas and New Year's parties, Hayrides, Weekly Regattas, Stunt Nights, etc. A Penny Fair was held where the entire camp enjoyed the fun of preparation and taking part in the many novel exhibits and games. The entire proceeds of this event were given to the YMCA World Service Fund.

CHAPEL

The pleasant grove of trees on the camp property was used each Sunday as the site for our Chapel services. Here each week the entire camp assembled to join in meditation and prayer. Inspirational talks were given by our guest Mr. Sadiq Dyal Chahd on two occasions; Mr. Herb Patterson, the Camp Director, and several services were conducted entirely by the Counsellors and Campers. Chapel collections were forwarded to the World Service Fund.

Morning devotional periods at breakfast were taken from the book "Special Delivery" by Douglas Monahan. These short up-to-date, moral pointed letters proved to be very worthwhile and popular with the boys.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

The general health of the camp was good. However, a great many cases of poison ivy were treated from contacts made outside the camp property. An educational campaign was constantly mentioned to help the campers recognize this obnoxious weed when on hikes. The greatly improved hospital facilities were extensively used and all the campers, counsellors and staff members were urged to have their cuts, scratches, ailments, attended to at once before deeper infections were allowed to get a hold.

Dr. Kelso of St. Anne's again gave unstintingly of his skill and professional services. His ready response to all our calls was a source of great aid to us in maintaining the camp health and safety. When Dr. Kelso left on his holidays he asked the doctor taking over his practice to keep a watchful eye on his wards. Dr. Loughheed, his successor, continued the interest in our camp and we were agreeably surprised to learn that Dr. Loughheed had formerly been on the staff of Kamp Kanawana.

PUBLICITY AND PROMOTION

This year's folder was indeed an excellent medium for the promotion of the camp. A great deal more information was conveyed in the same space and thus eliminated many needless questions, phone calls and embarrassing situations that arose

the previous year.

It was discovered late in the season that the restriction on registering for a period of longer than two weeks lost a great many potential campers. The practice, however, of having the camp period open on a Monday was found to be very good and should in my opinion be continued. New cuts of the present buildings and activities, obtained this year, will add a great deal to the presentation and promotion.

Many obvious difficulties arose this year in giving the office work for both camps to one girl in a central city office. More efficient work and planning can be carried out if the responsibilities of the two camps are divided or shared by another person in a central location.

The necessity of having the Camp Director out at camp dealing with many details on the new buildings just prior to the opening, also caused a decline in promotion. In another year this would not happen and with the continued support of the branches, we feel sure the camp would be filled to capacity.

IN APPRECIATION

The Camp Director is very appreciative to those many people not formally recognized in such a report as this, but who contributed so much to the welfare of the camp and campers.

- To the Parents and friends who gave willingly of their time and ability when called upon.
- To the Provincial Transport Company who arranged a special bus to and from the camp each Sunday.
- To our neighbours, trades-people and friends on the island, who were always so helpful and understanding.
- To the YMCA staff of the Montreal Branches.
- To Miss Vera Rutherford of the Camp Office.

RECOMMENDATIONS

A formal and detailed report containing suggestions, recommendations and procedures has been prepared and tabled with the special Committee dealing with Camp Perrot.

However, in this report I would like to mention its urgent need of having a retaining wall along the waterfront as soon as possible.

Additions to the camp fleet are required for next season. Row boats, small punts and another large freight canoe. The planting of suitable trees and shrubs in strategic points, visualizing the area in terms of many years should be started early next Spring.

Respectfully submitted,

A.T. DODDS
Camp Director

GIRLS CAMP

AUGUST 9TH. - 23RD. 1948

STAFF

Program Directress ~	Carol Hammond ~
Waterfront Directress	Marilyn Mathews
Senior Counsellor	Bess Clements
Chef	Mrs. Ina Bogle
Nurse	Miss Marie Comeau, R.N.

Senior Section (12 years and over)

Directress: Carol Hammond

Counsellors: Joan Allton
Joan Deachman
Gladys Hinchcliff X
Brenda Lamb X
Janet Preston
Hilary Spriggs

X Counsellor last year.

Junior Section (Under 12 years)

Directress: Marilyn Mathews

Counsellors: Lynn Bowring C
Myrna Chislett C
Carol Dollison X
Caireen Elliott (spare)
Joan Henley X
Nina Long
June Petrie X

C Last year's camper.

Number of Campers 89

The fifth season for Girls Camp was a happy experience with the largest enrolment to-date, of 89 campers who participated in a full outdoor and indoor program. The new Dining Hall and Hospital facilitated to a very considerable extent the general camp administration and activities.

PROGRAM

The two weeks period assigned to Girls Camp followed a definite daily routine interspersed with many special events. The waterfront activities were confined to Swimming and Canoeing instruction; Swimming and Canoe trips for advanced swimmers. New Row boats are urgently needed for use in swim patrol and for further waterfront program.

There were many group games, scavenger and treasure hunts, baseball, hike days and breakfast cooked out Wednesday mornings, and in addition many special features such as:-

- (1) Camp-fires (in particular, opening and closing Torchlight parades).
- (2) Stunt Night.
- (3) Campers' Day - A campers' staff, elected by popular vote, took over camp administration and program for one day.
- (4) Masquerade.
- (5) Hayride and Weiner Roast.
- (6) Olympic Day - Swimming, track and field events. Crowning of Olympic Queen at evening camp-fire
- (7) Indian Night - Colourful event in Council Circle: Hiawatha's arrival by canoe; feats of skill by

"Braves"; Peace Pipe Ceremony.

- (8) Christmas Party: The christmas tree, a donation from the Mayor of Ile Perrot, was placed beside the fire-place in the Dining Hall. The Camp Director, as Santa Claus, distributed gifts donated by all campers.
- (9) New Year's Eve: Campers brought to Dining Hall at midnight to say farewell to Old Camp Perrot 1948 and welcome the new Perrot 1949.
- (10) Movies.
- (11) Lumberjack Dinner.
- (12) Kinsmen's Club, Lachine - 8 members had dinner with campers after which they provided movies and other entertainment, followed by a Corn Roast. They also gave ice cream and cookies for the evening dinner. Their generosity was much appreciated by campers and staff.
- (13) Closing Banquet - Held in the new Dining Hall. Several visitors present. The Perrot Follies, capably directed by Carol Hammond followed the banquet.

CRAFTS

Two afternoons a week, crafts were held on the verandah of the Dining Hall, which made it very pleasant. Shellcraft was a popular craft as well as Felt Work, Clay Modelling, Plastic Work and Art. Archery instruction was in charge of Phil Dunn.

DRAMATICS

This group met in the Barn to read plays. Since the closing of camp, the Foremen's Club of Montreal, have built a stage in the barn which will be adequate for many dramatic projects during next year's camp.

CHAPEL

Chapel service was held in the grove of trees on Sundays at 11:00 A.M. with the staff in charge the first Sunday, and Counsellors the second Sunday. Eight Roman Catholic girls attended early Mass at the Village church.

HEALTH

The modern Hospital with complete equipment was a source of invaluable help to the camp. Miss Marie Comeau, R.N. was the nurse in charge.

VISITORS

At least 175 parents and visitors were at Camp Perrot on the two Sunday afternoons, many of whom came by the Special Sunday Bus. Afternoon tea was served on the verandah of the Dining Hall. I found the parents to be very cooperative and friendly toward the camp.

STAFF AND
COUNSELLORS

To all members of the Staff and Counsellors, I should like to say how much I have appreciated their splendid teamwork and high type of service which they rendered to the Camp and Campers.

RECOMMENDATIONS

To next year's Directress and Staff, I should like to make the following recommendations:-

- (1) That the Camper's age range be changed to 9 - 15 years instead of 10 - 16 years.
(Counsellors' age range was from 15 - 17 years)
- (2) That Counsellors be required to have a Life-Saving Certificate and a craft skill for instructing.
- (3) That age grouping be retained with a Section Directress for each group.
- (4) That a small area on one of the Ile Perrot farms be rented for overnight hike groups.

Respectfully submitted,

VERLIE DODDS
Girls Camp Directress

VD/bt